



Civic Federation News

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Civic Federation

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Program on Annual Growth Policy

by Jim Humphrey, Chair, Planning and Land Use Committee

The program for our May 14 meeting will focus on the county's annual growth policy (AGP). Every two years, the County Council discusses and votes on whatever changes to the growth policy are felt necessary.

Since the 1980s, the AGP process had set capacity ceilings on the amount of new development to be allowed in each county planning area, based on the ability of the public infrastructure and services in those areas to adequately serve additional jobs and housing. The AGP also included a procedure requiring developers seeking to build in policy areas to fund transportation improvements needed to accommodate

their projects. Although the MNCPPC Planning Board recommended against it, a majority of the members of the previous Council voted in 2003 to eliminate the AGP process.

The new process put in place in 2003 allows development to be approved based solely on schools and roads capacity tests, and instituted impact taxes on all construction. The majority of members of the previous Council voted in 2005 to retain the altered system, again in opposition to the recommendations of the Planning Board. Now, in 2007, the new Council has an opportunity to revisit the county growth policy. The Planning Board will make its recommendations by mid-May, and the Council will hold public hearings and work sessions

(continued p 2)

Inside this issue:

<i>Nominations for New MCCF Leaders</i>	2
<i>Resolution on County's Growth Policy</i>	2
<i>Resolution on an Environmental Issue</i>	3
<i>Education Matters</i>	4
<i>Bylaws Changes</i>	5
<i>Minutes of April 9 Regular meeting</i>	7
<i>Minutes of April 18 Ex Comm Meeting</i>	8
<i>Annual Awards Banquet Reservation Form</i>	11

Finnegan to receive Community Hero Award

by Jim Humphrey

At our meeting on May 14, the MCCF will honor Eileen Finnegan as the newest recipient of our Community Hero Award. Currently serving as Chair of the Zoning and Planning Committee for the Hillandale Citizens Association, Eileen is a seemingly tireless defender of the quality of life in the Hillandale and White Oak areas. She has worked for years on solutions to problem cases involving residential infill construction in those neighborhoods, and has testified before the Planning Board and the County Council on issues with both local and countywide impact.

Eileen has networked with county and state officials on local road issues, and also fought

for the most compatible reuse of the Naval Surface Weapons Laboratory site in White Oak. She recently devoted hundreds of volunteer hours preparing for and successfully arguing before the Board of Appeals against a retail operation in the Hillandale Shopping Center that is not lawful under the center's zoning. Unfortunately that struggle continues, as the Board's ruling is now being challenged in Circuit Court.

In recognition of her knowledge, experience and dedication in the areas of zoning and land use planning that enhance the quality of life for the residents of Hillandale and the entire county, the Civic Federation is pleased to honor Eileen Finnegan as a true Community Hero.

**RESERVE YOUR
TICKETS NOW FOR THE
MONTGOMERY CY
CIVIC FEDERATION
2007
ANNUAL
AWARDS
BANQUET
FRIDAY, MAY 11,
2007
USE SIGN UP FORM ON
PAGE 11**

May program (cont)

in June and July with a vote on the issue expected before the August break.

At our May 14 meeting, Karl Moritz, head of the Research and Technology Center at MNCPPC, will discuss the AGP and possible changes to it. Although the Planning Board will not yet have taken a formal vote on the recommendations it will make to the County Council, Karl will share the preliminary findings of four staff working groups that have been meeting for months. Those groups have focused on the areas of adequate public facilities, fiscal impact of growth, sustainability, and quality of design. There will be a question and answer period following Karl's presentation.

The Planning Board did submit an initial report on growth

policy to the Council in February, and filed an interim report in March. Those and other documents are available on a growth policy webpage on the Park and Planning website, which can be accessed at <http://www.mcparkandplanning.org/development/agp/agphome.shtm>. The public is also invited to attend and participate in a public forum on growth policy hosted by the Planning Board on Saturday, May 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Park and Planning headquarters. The entrance is located in the rear of the building at 8787 Georgia Avenue, off the public parking lot accessed from Spring Street.

Nominations For New MCCF Leaders

By Sandy Vogelgesang, Chair, Nominations Committee

The Federation's Nominating Committee will present the following slate of nominees for the Civic Federation's elected positions noted below at the May 14 meeting:

- President – Wayne Goldstein
- First Vice President – Arnold Gordon
- Second Vice President – Peggy Dennis
- Eight District Vice Presidents (one from each Maryland State legislative district)
 - 14: Alyce Ortuzar
 - 15: Sandy Vogelgesang
 - 16: Lee Shipman
 - 17: (Gaithersburg) – Open
 - 18: Richard Zierdt
 - 19: Bill Schrader
 - 20: (Silver Spring) - Open
 - 39: (north of Gaithersburg) - Open
- Recording Secretary: Open
- Treasurer: Luella Mast

Interested in playing a more active role in your community? Want to help shape County policies on issues ranging from schools and roads, to zoning regulations and the environment? If so, volunteer or nominate other excellent delegates to serve as elected officers in the Civic Federation before or at the next Delegates' meeting on May 14. You may do this by contacting any member of the Nominating Committee:

- Chuck Floyd 301-509-5620 Chuck@chuckfloyd.com
- Cary Lamari 301-924-2746 carylamara@yahoo.com
- Chuck Lapinski 301-384-0392 clapinsk@mcri.com
- Sandy Vogelgesang 301-365-2347
everest.associates@erols.com
- Charles Wolff 301-585-9744 wolff99@starpower.net

Note that every MCCF Delegate has the right to nominate candidates from the floor at the May meeting. You need only present information about the proposed nominee and arrange for seconds by Delegates from three different Member associations. Officers will be elected at the Annual Meeting in June and assume office at the close of that meeting.



Resolution on County's Growth Policy

by Jim Humphrey, Chair, Planning and Land Use Committee

At the April Executive Committee meeting, it was agreed to place a resolution proposed by the Federation's Planning and Land Use Committee related to the county's growth policy before the delegates at the upcoming May 14 meeting. The resolution will urge the county government to model what the county would look like if all properties were built out to the maximum density allowed by existing zoning. The results of this modeling exercise will be useful in the upcoming discussion of changes to the county's growth policy that will take place over the next several months. A key benefit would be a better understanding of

the amount of additional infrastructure--roads, transit, schools and services--that would be required if the county were to be fully built out with all of the dwelling units and retail/commercial construction that are allowed under current zoning.

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has provided a toolkit on their website for cities and counties to use in modeling buildout, which can be accessed at www.epa.gov/greenkit/build_out.htm. Officials in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania have already used the EPA toolkit to model buildout for major sections of that jurisdiction, and their findings are also available on the EPA website.

Resolution on an Environmental Issue

by Caren Madsen, Chair, Environment Committee

Our streets and roads are necessary to our transportation system, but they are a necessary evil when it comes to the environment. Pavements are impervious, and the gutters, storm drains and swales that channel storm water off the streets also maximize the quantity and speed of the runoff. Nor do these traditional methods of evacuating runoff do anything to improve the quality of the storm water. Thus they contribute to the deterioration of the water quality in the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay. The wide, open swales required for "open section" roads - those without curbs, gutters and storm drains - often require the cutting of trees close to the street which boosts the heat load of the sun on the asphalt during our summers and increases the ambient temperature.

To minimize the environmentally negative affects of traditional road engineering methods, I am asking that the Civic Federation join with the Storm Waters Coalition, approve a resolution and communicate that resolution to the County Council's Transportation and Environment Committee, the County Executive, the Director of the Department of Public Works and Transportation and the Director of the Department of Environmental Protection. Support for the "Green Streets Amendment" will help assure constructive language in Bill 48-06, the comprehensive revision of the county's code for street and road construction currently under consideration. The proposed resolution follows:

"Be it resolved that the Montgomery County Civic Federation urges the County Council and the Executive to approve the Green Streets Amendment to the Road Code to mandate that a minimum quantity of stormwater be retained and treated on-site, within the public right-of-way, preferably using vegetation-based stormwater management techniques."

Approval of the Green Streets Amendment will help achieve the above goal by using the following principles of roadway design:

- Incorporate bioretention features to the maximum extent practicable, particularly by utilizing landscaping units for this purpose.
- Utilize evolving design standards to ensure that Montgomery County's roadway stormwater management techniques keep pace with the national and international state of the art.
- Minimize impervious surfaces to the maximum extent practicable, once all transportation modes, particularly pedestrian and bicycling needs, are considered..
- Utilize "open section" roads instead of "curb and gutter" roads wherever practicable.
- Preserve existing rural and rustic roads.

Education Matters: Changes (part I)

by **Mark R. Adelman, Chair, Education Committee**

My time of service as Chair of the MCCF Education Committee will end in June. The Executive Committee, seeking a new Chair, has asked me to describe the responsibilities of the Education Committee and what we have done over the past few years. This article will focus primarily on some general themes; the June Newsletter will discuss specifics of some of our past and present activities.

According to MCCF bylaws, the Education Committee "shall monitor, evaluate, report, and make recommendations concerning the programming, financing, and operation of schools and colleges within Montgomery County." With such a broad mandate, it is up to the Chair to assemble a committee that can reach consensus on what seem to be the most timely issues and agree on how to proceed. MCCF is fortunate that a number of delegates were willing to work on the Education Committee. We met monthly and were able to tap the knowledge and perspectives of many other delegates, as well as citizens who, while not members of the Civic Federation were still eager to help us work on our tasks. I would urge anyone considering taking over the post of Chair of this committee to continue to expand and strengthen such contacts, because they are vitally important to the functioning of a group of activists as small as ours.

We have operated under the consensus that Montgomery County Public schools (MCPS) does a pretty good job of educating the children of Montgomery County, but could do much better. One critical problem is the inability of the Board of Education (BoE) and the MCPS administration to fully utilize the knowledge, talents, and energy of the community - especially the many citizens (about 75% of all taxpayers) who do not have kids in public schools. We became aware that the various PTAs, which constitute the deepest reservoir of knowledge about problems in our schools and willingness to work very hard to help resolve those problems, often faced the immense challenge of trying to decide between what seems best for a specific school or cluster and what others might deem best for all children. We consciously sought to help resolve the frustration this creates for many parents, by listening as carefully as possible to individual perspectives and seeking threads of common concern. The MCCPTA is the time-honored mechanism for this; we simply hoped to help out - as is illustrated with reference to two issues that consumed so much of our time.

The controversies over the revision of BoE Policy FAA and

over the Seven Locks Elementary School (SLES) replacement have been described in countless newsletter and newspaper articles, public hearings, etc. Since much of the information is available on the MCCF website, I will only describe them from a few "big picture" perspectives.

1. Both issues were intricately interrelated and reflect underlying tensions in how the BoE/MCPS interfaces with the community it serves including PTAs. Unfortunately, many such issues are or become needlessly polarizing, even though it usually does not serve much purpose attempting to assign blame. There is often more than enough blame to go around and - in my experience - focusing on one or two people who are "most guilty" rarely solves the problem.
2. Our work on Policy FAA, as well as the associated implementing document FAA-RA, took many hours and involved much frustration, but it was also educational, reinforcing the knowledge that solving complex problems requires a long term effort and acceptance of progress in small steps. It also helped us learn some of the arcane jargon of the politics of public education, the difficulty of getting many citizens to pay attention to often unexciting battles, and the importance of trying to get more people to think about what is being said and done. We read BoE Policy revisions carefully, to speak out with recommendations when appropriate, and to urge the BoE and the administration of MCPS to be more open and receptive to dialogue with all citizens.
3. The extended struggle over the SLES replacement matter was an eye-opening (but educational!) excursion into the reality that many issues of concern to MCCF over the years resonate with problems facing the public school system now. These include the impacts of rapid growth, inadequate funding of needed public facilities, political polarization and gamesmanship, and the unwillingness of almost all segments of our community to accept realities such as the linkages between rights and responsibilities. Our testimonies before the BoE and the County Council forced us to address such issues as constrained budgets, perceptions that segments of the community were being pitted against one another, growing lack of trust, and how to satisfy unlimited demands with limited resources.

But we are encouraged by some recent events and, in my final newsletter article, I will attempt to summarize some of the issues in which we are currently involved and why they are items that my successor might wish to keep on the Education Committee agenda.



Bylaws Changes

by Luella Mast, Bylaws Committee Chair

Two phases of the procedures for changing our bylaws as mandated by the bylaws come together at this May's regular meeting. First, we will vote to approve amendments to the bylaws introduced at the April meeting. Printed amendments will be available at the meeting. Alternatively, you may go to the April edition of the newsletter, pages 3, 4 and 5, which can be pulled up on our website.

After we take a final vote on those changes, we will discuss, and make amendments to, if you wish, the bylaws changes approved at the April 18 Executive Committee meeting and printed below, with a final vote on them to be taken at our June meeting. Sections to be changed are listed under the Articles in which they are found. Words to be deleted are shown *in italics with brackets*. Words to be added are underlined. An explanation of and a brief reason for our recommended change follows each section.

ARTICLE I. TITLE AND OBJECTIVE

Section 6. Parliamentary Guide. This organization is governed by these Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, except for rules specified herein, and Standing Rules. The Standing Rules shall be adopted by the Executive Committee.

Recommended Change: Move Section 4 to Article I and renumber it as Section 6. **Reason:** This section clarifies the rules under which our organization operates. As such it should be placed within Article I which covers global Federation issues.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Section 3. Individual Member

A. Associate (1) Definition. Any individual who is a legal resident of the county may participate in Federation activities by becoming an Associate.

Recommended Change: Add words. **Reason:** Makes residency requirement the same as that for Past Presidents.

A. Associate (2) Duties and Privileges. An associate will receive the Newsletter, may attend Federation functions and participate in discussion at meetings and serve on committees, but he may not make motions or vote. If appointed to chair a committee, he should attend Executive Committee meetings but shall not be a voting member of said committee. *[In no case shall the number of committee chairs held by Associates exceed 25% of all committees.]*

Recommended Change: Delete the last sentence. **Reason:** The Executive Committee has 13 elected officers plus 7 Standing Committee chairs and 5 appointed officers. The 25% limit apparently was adopted to have representatives from Federation members in the majority of leadership positions. The bylaws require that all elected officers be representatives of voting Federation members. Even if all 7 Standing Committee chairs and all 5 appointed officers were Associate members, the majority of Executive Committee members would still be representative of voting Federation members. This change allows the President, with the vote of the membership, to nominate outstanding individuals, regardless of membership status, as standing committee chairs.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICIALS AND ORGANIZATION

Recommended Change: Reorder and renumber the Sections in the Article as follows: 1. Board of Directors. 2 [3]. Elected Officers. 3 [2]. Executive Committee. 4. Appointed Officials. 5 [6]. Committees established by the Bylaws. 6 [5]. Standing Committees. 7. Special Committees. 8. Parliamentarian. **Reason:** Reordering places each group in order of importance and explains a group before referring to it in subsequent sections.

Section 1. Board of Directors. There shall be a Board of Directors comprised of the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, the Recording Secretary, and the Treasurer. It shall have the duties and powers *[set forth in these bylaws and as may be imposed]* as required by state law. The Board of Directors shall meet at least annually. *[An Affirmative Vote shall be at least five votes, and shall be required for a Board Action.]*

Recommended Change: Delete the words shown in the second sentence. Add "as required" to that sentence. Delete the last sentence. **Reason:** Our bylaws do not set forth duties and powers for the Board of Directors so the second sentence as written is meaningless. The Board of Directors is a requirement of state law. Therefore it's duties and powers should be those required by the law. The number of votes required for Board action should also be established by state law, not in the bylaws.

ARTICLE XI. CONDUCT OF FEDERATION MEETINGS

[Section 4. Parliamentary Guide. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be the parliamentary guide governing Federation proceedings, except for rules specified herein.]

Recommended Change: Move Section 4 to Article I and renumber it as Section 6. **Reason:** This section clarifies the rules governing our operations. As such it should be placed within Article I which covers global Federation issues.

ARTICLE XIII. ADOPTION OF FEDERATION POSITIONS

Section 2. Regular Resolutions. The following categories of resolutions or action items shall be included in the President's proposed Agenda:

- a. Proposals of the Executive Committee
- b. Floor Resolutions from previous meeting
- [c. Tabled resolutions from previous meeting.]*

Recommended Change: Delete c. **Reason:** Since Roberts Rules of Order already provides for procedures to take tabled resolutions off the table, it is not necessary to specify that they must be taken off the table in the bylaws.

Section 3. Action Items. Issues or questions announced in the Newsletter may be either acted upon at the meeting or tabled *[until the next meeting]*.

Recommended Change: Delete words specifying a set time limit. **Reason:** Same as for Section 2.

Section 4. Meeting Topics. Resolutions resulting from program, speaker, or committee reports which were announced in the Newsletter may be either acted upon at the meeting or tabled *[until the next meeting]*.

Recommended Change: Delete words specifying a set time frame. **Reason:** Same as for Sections 2 and 3.

Section 6. Emergency Resolutions. A resolution offered from the floor as an emergency, seconded by Delegates from five other Member associations, and approved by *[Affirmative]* two-thirds (2/3) vote of those voting shall be added to the Agenda and acted upon at the meeting.

Recommended Change: Change "Affirmative Vote" to "2/3 vote of those voting." **Reason:** Clarify what an affirmative vote for placing an Emergency Resolution on the agenda means. Keep the requirement for passage high so that it is clear that a majority of those present support adding the emergency motion to the agenda.

ARTICLE XV. ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Section 2. Awards Committee. An Awards Committee to make recommendations for recipients shall be established during the autumn. The President shall call for volunteers to serve on the Awards Committee at the September meeting. Members shall be nominated by the President and confirmed by the Executive Committee at the November Executive Committee meeting. *[Notice of the Awards Committee along with a call for suggestions will be published at the December newsletter. Meetings should commence no later than January.]*

Recommended Change: Delete instructions which relate to committee operations and place them in Standing Rules. **Reason:** Instructions to the committee which detail committee operations belong in the Standing Rules.

[Section 3. Selection of Recipients. Recipients of the awards shall be determined by the Executive Committee at the March meeting, based upon but not limited to recommendations of the Awards Committee. Only members of the Executive Committee may be present during the selection process, and any member of the Executive Committee recommended for any award by the Awards Committee may



not participate in the process.]

Recommended Change: Delete Section 3. **Reason:** Same as Section 2.

[Section 4. Follow-up Responsibilities. After the March Executive Committee meeting, the Awards Committee shall notify award recipients of their selection and the time and place of the presentation. The committee shall prepare the awards and necessary statements to be used at the presentation and take responsibility for publicizing the awards through the Federation Newsletter and other channels.]

Recommended Change: Delete Section 4. **Reason:** Same as Sections 2 and 3.

[Section 5. Recognition. Recipients of the Star Cup shall not have possession of the original trophy for which the award is named, but shall be given a suitably engraved small cup as a permanent memento of the award.]

Recommended Change: Delete Section 5. **Reason:** Same as Sections 2,3, and 4.

ARTICLE XVII. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

Section 3. Approval. An amendment [upon Affirmative] requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote [shall] to become effective at the close of the meeting in which the amendment was approved, unless a future date is specified.

Recommended Change: Change "Affirmative Vote" to 2/3 vote. Modify the remainder of the sentence. **Reason:** Have the procedure for amending the bylaws confirm to Roberts Rules of Order and clarify the intent of the sentence.

Minutes of the April 9, 2007 Regular Meeting

by Richard Zierdt, Recording Secretary

MCCF President Wayne Goldstein calls the meeting to order at 7:47 p.m. with introductions. 33 are present at this time. Villages of Bethesda is well represented.

Minutes of the March 12, 2007 meeting are accepted as printed in the Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report. Luella Mast distributes the written treasurer's report.

Community Hero award: Jim Humphrey presents the Community Hero Award to Mr. Bernie Fiskin, the Liaison Officer on Land Use Matters of the HOA Board of the Villages of Bethesda. Mr. Fiskin makes a baseball analogy to the County's land use and TSR program with four bases: (1) Learn enough to be an effective citizen (Jim Humphrey, Karen Madsen, Wayne Goldstein); (2) Don't let County officials (people of power and influence) treat you like chopped liver, unimportant, and left out of the process; (3) Be selective in the windmills you tilt at (land use, schools, transportation); and (4) work with, negotiate with, and engage the developers.

Program: Montgomery County Parks. Wayne Goldstein introduces Ms. Mary Bradford, Director of Parks, who shows a map of the county's 401 parks and historic sites. Stream bank erosion is a concern. Ms. Bradford was hired as Director of Parks with the understanding that Parks should be separate

from the Planning Department. Parks have become the "back yards" of an increasingly urban County. Ms. Bradford feels stewardship of historic and natural resources needs increased attention. \$70M operating budget is overseen by the County Council. Questions: Intern programs for summer students? A: There is an intern program for high school students, however most jobs are not seasonal. Revenue Authority runs the golf course. Q: Why were trees cut in Cabin John regional parks? A: Will look into that.

Committee Reports.

Transportation: Byron Bloch, chair, moves that MCCF urge the county to adopt the use of reflective striping for our roads. Seconded. Standard paint costs 80 cent to \$1 per foot to apply and last about 2 years. Other higher quality, more reflective materials cost about \$2 per foot to apply and lasts 10 to 12 years. Montrose Parkway will use top grade reflective stripes. Repaving is an excellent time to apply reflective stripes. Motion passes 21-0-0.

Bylaws Committee: Luella Mast presents various bylaws changes (published in the Newsletter) for discussion or changes. There will be a vote next month.

Housing: Jim Humphrey: Affordable Housing Working group has no MCCF members. MCCF should insist that MCCF representatives be include in such working groups.

Planning and Land Use: Jim Humphrey. www.ctcac.com new web site.
Environment Committee: Caren Madsen, chair, explains responsibility for environment is spread out over various governmental agencies. Caren is studying how these pieces might be better coordinated. County Tree Ordinance by Mark Elrich and Roger Berliner is being studied. Stormwater permit discussion with Ike Leggett. Forest Conservation Citizens Advisory committee is being

formed.

Legislation. Dan Wilhelm. Committee for Montgomery. Maryland State structural deficit of \$1.5B is expected next year. There may be a September special session of the legislature to deal with this.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourns at 9:44pm,

Minutes of the April 18, 2007 Executive Committee Meeting

By Sandy Vogelgesang, Acting Recording Secretary

Call to Order. MCCF president Wayne Goldstein called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM. Present: Wayne Goldstein, Arnold Gordon, Peggy Dennis, Jim Humphrey, Dan Wilhelm, Luella Mast, Alyce Ortuzar, Marvin Weinman, Byron Bloch, Mark Adelman, Lee Shipman, William Schrader, Charles Wolff, and Sandy Vogelgesang.

Minutes Approved. Minutes of the March 21, 2007 Executive Committee Meeting, printed in the April Civic Federation Newsletter were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report. Not on agenda.

Environment Committee. Wayne Goldstein reported for Caren Madsen, Committee Chair. He described tour taken that day of Sidwell Friends Middle School, which is reportedly the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for the Green Building Rating System) "platinum" level educational building in the U.S. The project is notable for low additional costs (due to advance planning), likely energy savings over life-span of building, and possible model for more green construction in Montgomery County. Goldstein also reported on continuing need, as per issues raised by property near Georgia Avenue, for County action regarding tree conservation ordinance and stormwater management.

Education Committee. Mark Adelman reported on his testimony on behalf of MCCF submitted to the County Council regarding proposed cuts by the County Executive in the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) budget request.

Planning and Land Use (PLU) Committee. Jim Humphrey introduced the following resolution: "Resolved that the MCCF Executive Committee recommend that the County Council authorize an independent

investigation of the Clarksburg Development Districts issue" which was seconded, discussed and voted approved with Jim to prepare a letter for the County Council to be signed by MCCF president. Jim also moved that the Committee present a motion at the May 2007 delegates' meeting recommending that the County model "build-out" by using the online toolkit available on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website--approved: 8-0-3. Other items noted or actions taken: County Executive issued REOI (Request for Expressions of Interest) to relocate facilities from County service park; Washington Adventist Hospital purchased 48 acres northeast of White Oak; and Pentagon committee pushing to expedite move of Walter Reed facilities to National Naval Medical Center. ExComm agreed Humphrey will write letter to County Executive Leggett requesting County Attorney support all Board of Appeals decisions.

Nominating Committee. Sandy Vogelgesang reported on status of nominations to be presented at the May meeting. Key pending opening: Recording Secretary and several district vice presidents. Slate to be presented at May regular meeting.

Awards Committee. Peggy Dennis reported on selections for awards to be presented at the Awards Banquet, as follows: Star Cup to Jim Humphrey, Sentinel Award to the Life Skills Workshop, and the Gazette Award to Common Cause Maryland. Peggy reviewed arrangements for the banquet, to be held at New Fortune Restaurant in Gaithersburg on May 11, and urged all Executive Committee members to help encourage attendance.

Bylaws Committee. Luella Mast noted one amendment in the committee's proposed "recommended additions to the Bylaws" -- namely, include in Article XV, Section 2 the sentence, "Members shall be nominated by the President and confirmed by the Executive Committee at the November Executive Committee meeting." The motion to adopt the changes recommended by the Bylaws Committee, including the above revision, passed unanimously (11-0-0). The recommended changes are to be presented and discussed at the May delegates' meeting and voted on at the June delegates' meeting.



Community Hero Award. Jim Humphrey nominated Eileen Finnegan to receive a Community Hero Award for her extensive work on critical land use issues. A motion to that effect passed unanimously (11-0-0).

Transportation Committee: Peggy Dennis reported on communication to County Council regarding the need for the MCCF to be a designated “stakeholder” for purposes of inclusion in the work on Bill 48-06 which rewrites the county’s code for roads and streets. Byron Bloch, Committee Chair, reported that he is obtaining more information on reflective striping for County roads, including the possibility of getting up to 80 percent Federal funding. Jim Humphrey noted that Councilmember Nancy Floreen had proposed creating a transportation infrastructure financing task force. As reported at earlier delegates’ meeting, Dan Wilhelm has been asked to serve on that task force.

Program Committee. Arnie Gordon led discussion of upcoming meetings. Set topics: County growth policy at May meeting and WSSC at the June meeting. Suggestions for later meetings include: permitting services (September) and forest conservation or other environmental topic (October). The Executive Committee agreed to have Chuck Floyd invite the Chief of Police to address the November meeting.

Public Finance and Utilities Committee. Marvin Weinman reported on latest County budget developments, particularly including the possibility of rising taxes due to such factors as the recent agreements on wages and bene-

fits for MCPS teachers/staff and other County employees. He urged MCCF to remain alert to breaking news on the budget, at County and State level.

Legislation/Committee for Montgomery (CFM). Dan Wilhelm urged Executive Committee to encourage representatives from MCCF member organizations to join CFM board.

Other New Business and Newsletter Assignments. Alyce Ortuzar reported on latest developments concerning Ashton Meeting Place at intersection of routes 108 and 650 and urged support for Planning Board staff denial of support for the project. Motion by Arnie Gordon asking the PLU Committee to support staff denial passed – 7 for, 1 opposed, and 2 abstaining. Jim Humphrey reported that the County Planning Board Chair Royce Hanson will host a round table for civic reps on County growth policy, May 5 (9:30-12:30) at the Kensington Armory. The following assignments were made for the *Newsletter*: Awards Banquet (Peggy Dennis), Community Hero (Jim Humphrey), Program (Jim Humphrey), Bylaws (Luella Mast), Green Street Amendment to 48-06 (Caren Madsen), Education Committee report (Mark Adelman) and Executive Committee Minutes (Sandy Vogelgesang).

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Public Service Announcement

Member organizations in the eastern side of the county are asked to publicize the following announcement:

FREE TRANSPORTATION

to Congressman Wynn’s

15th Annual Job Fair

Monday, May 7th, 2007

at the Prince George’s Sports & Learning Complex

8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD

Buses will depart from the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center at

10:00 am and return at 3:00 pm

- Over 200 Businesses & employers (including federal and local government)
- Bring Resumes—Dress in Business Attire
- For information or to reserve a bus seat call 240-777-8400



Bernie Fiskin (back row, left), April's Community Hero with friends and admirers from the Villages of Bethesda Homeowners Association.



Montgomery County Civic Federation's
2007 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Friday, May 11, 6:00 to 9:30 p.m.
New Fortune Restaurant
16515 S. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg

THE STAR CUP - JIM HUMPHREY

To be presented by Council President Marilyn Praisner
To a MCCF delegate or individual for outstanding public service to Montgomery County

THE GAZETTE AWARD - LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOP INC.

To be presented by Councilmember Phil Andrews
To an individual or group for outstanding public service to the people of Montgomery County

THE SENTINEL AWARD - COMMON CAUSE MARYLAND

To be presented by Representative Chris Van Hollen
To an individual or group who makes a significant contribution to
good government at the local level

Until Wednesday, May 9: \$26 per person or \$45 per couple
After May 9 or at the door: \$30 per person or \$50 per couple

Directions: New Fortune is in the Walnut Hill Shopping Center on the eastern side of Route 355, one block northwest of the intersection with Shady Grove Road & I-370.

Menu: Appetizer, Roast Chicken, Beef Chow Foon, Chinese Broccoli with Oyster Sauce, Fried Tofu with Vegetables, Twice-cooked Pork, Singapore Noodles, Fried Rice, Cantonese-style Steamed Fish, Orange Wedges. Price includes wine and sodas. Cash bar.

Please but off and fill in this stub. Mail with a check payable to the Montgomery County Civic Federation to: Ms Luella Mast, MCCF Treasurer, 809 Hobbs Drive, Colesville, MD 20904

I/We will attend the banquet _____

(Please print name(s) as you wish them to be on your name badge at the banquet)

Association or Organization (if applicable) _____

Contact information _____

(Telephone) (Email)

You may reserve a table for ten. Please list those sitting at your table if you wish to do this.

Federation Meeting

Monday, May 14
7:45 1st Floor Auditorium
County Council Office Building,
100 Maryland Ave.
Rockville, MD

Agenda:

7:45 Call to Order
7:46 Introduction and Announcements
7:55 Adoption of Meeting Agenda
7:56 Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report
8:00 Program: County's Annual Growth Policy
9:10 Committee Reports
9:30 Member Issues
9:40 Old Business
9:50 New Business
10:00 Adjourn

The **Montgomery County Civic Federation** is a county-wide non-profit educational and advocacy organization. It was founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. Its monthly Federation meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Monday of each month September through June at 7:45 p.m. in the First Floor Auditorium, County Office Building, Rockville, MD.

The **Civic Federation News** is published monthly. It is mailed to Delegates; associate members; news media, and local, state, and federal officials. Permission is granted to reprint any article provided proper credit is given to the "**Civic Federation News of the Montgomery County Civic Federation.**"

Submit contributions for the next issue by: **Midnight, Saturday May 26**. Prepare submission as an MS Word, Word Perfect or text-only document, **attach** it to e-mail, and send it to hotyaker@comcast.net

Please send all address corrections to Dan Wilhelm, 904 Cannon Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904, 301-384-2698, or djwilhelm@verizon.net.

NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, May 23, 7:45 p.m.

Julius West Middle School

651 Great Falls Road, Rockville



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